

the underdrain block comprising:

an upper wall, side walls, and a lower wall;

at least one lateral member with the underdrain block between the upper wall and he lower wall;

at least two chambers within the underdrain block, each chamber being defined by the lateral member;

a plurality of orifices in the upper wall of the underdrain block; and

a plurality of internal orifices in the lateral member;

wherein the underdrain block is jointless, extends substantially the length of a fitler media supported thereby and has a longitudinal length of is at least 10 feet.

Claim 7 (currently amended) ~~The underdrain block of claim 1, wherein the~~ An underdrain block for an underdrain system supporting a filter media in a liquid filtration system, the underdrain block comprising:

an upper wall, side walls, and a lower wall;

at least one lateral member with the underdrain block between the upper wall and he lower wall;

at least two chambers within the underdrain block, each chamber being defined by the lateral member;

a plurality of orifices in the upper wall of the underdrain block; and

a plurality of internal orifices in the lateral member;

wherein the underdrain block is jointless, extends substantially the length of a fitler media supported thereby and has a longitudinal length of is at least 20 feet.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (previously presented) An underdrain block for an underdrain system supporting a filter media bed in a liquid filtration system, the underdrain block comprising:

an upper wall, side walls, and a lower wall, said walls defining an interior of said underdrain block;

three lateral members within the underdrain block comprising two vertical lateral members and one horizontal lateral member, said two vertical lateral members dividing said interior of the underdrain block into three sections of approximately equal size, said horizontal lateral member intersecting said two vertical lateral members such that said horizontal lateral member further divides the interior of the underdrain block into six chambers comprising three upper chambers of approximately equal size located above said horizontal lateral member and three lower chambers of approximately equal size located below said horizontal lateral member;

a plurality of upper orifices through the upper wall of the underdrain block; and

a plurality of internal orifices through the horizontal lateral member.

Claim 19 (previously presented) The underdrain block of claim 18 further comprising:

a plurality of air nozzles located in each section of the underdrain and each located at different lengths along the length of the underdrain, each air nozzle comprising:

a pipe having a closed end and an open end, said pipe extending from the lower wall of said underdrain through the internal orifice into the upper chamber, said pipe having a vertical slot proximate the closed end and situated in the lower chamber substantially near the lower wall, said pipe further having a hole situated in the lower chamber substantially near the horizontal lateral member, said open end situated in the upper chamber substantially near the horizontal lateral member.

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (previously presented) An underdrain block for an underdrain system supporting a filter media bed in a liquid filtration system, the underdrain block comprising:

a plurality of walls integrally connected; and

at least one chamber within the underdrain block being defined by the walls;